

Nevada Alternate Assessment SEAC – May 20, 2014

The Nevada Alternate Assessment (NAA) was first administered during the 2009-2010 academic school year. Prior to the NAA, students, who qualified to participate in an alternate assessment, based on alternate academic achievement standards, participated in the Nevada Alternate Scales of Academic Achievement (NASAA).

The NAA was developed to assess students with significant cognitive disabilities on Alternate Grade Level Indicators (AGLIs) aligned to the Nevada grade level content standards in English Language Arts (Reading and Writing), Mathematics and Science commensurate with their typically developing peers who participate in the Criterion Referenced Test (CRT) and the High School Proficiency Examination (HSPE).

Students, who are determined eligible to participate using the NAA by their Individualized Educational Planning (IEP) Team, are assessed in grades 3-8 and 11, in parallel to their peers participating in the CRT and HSPE.

The Nevada Alternate Assessment is administered by the student's special education teacher, or licensed personnel familiar to the student, in a one-on-one test administration. The assessment is videotaped to ensure that the assessment was delivered with fidelity, according to the administration guidelines, and to validate the teacher test administrators scoring protocol.

During the assessment administration, teachers utilize the video to capture the student's response to assessment items. The video captures students' interactions with assessment items in whichever manner they expressively communicate (e.g., pointing, switch activating, scanning, verbally expressing an answer, or via eye gaze). Videotapes need not capture images of the student beyond that of the response mode utilized to respond to assessment items.

At the end of the assessment window, completed assessments are viewed and scored in a scoring center to validate the teacher test administrators record of the students' responses to each assessment item.

Additional data is collected, by the validation scorers on each validated assessment regarding problems during the test administration within a given assessment. Error data is collected for each assessment, aggregated by district and school, and submitted to each district with their accountability data so that they may address any training needs prior to the next assessment cycle.

All assessments materials are stored with the Nevada Department of Education's vendor, Measured Progress, and referred to if questions arise regarding the assessment administration or validated scores.

As we move into the next few years, the NAA is undergoing a redesign to align to the recently adopted Nevada Academic Content Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. It will also incorporate, once formally adopted, the Nevada Academic Content Standards for Science.

As we move into this new development phase for the NAA, the Nevada Department of Education will engage stakeholder groups to gather insight and feedback on each phase in the test development process. Stakeholder group called upon for input during development will include educators (both K-12 and post secondary), parents, and the business community with the goal of providing the context for instruction and assessment that moves our students toward the Nevada Ready objective of readiness for post secondary opportunities for all Nevada students.

Questions regarding the NAA can be directed to Lisa Ford at (702) 486-6561 or via email at lford@doe.nv.gov.